

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 and 16-19 are pending. Claims 15 and 20-52 have been canceled. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 9-14 and 16 are amended.

§ 112 Rejections

Claim 4 stand rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards (or Applicants regard) as the invention.

Claim 4 and others have been amended to more clearly and distinctly specify the claimed subject matter.

§ 102 Rejections

Claims 1-6 and 8-10, 15 and 16 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Brumlik 4,001,366.

Claim 1 has been amended to address the rejection based on the interpretation of Brumlik of record, however it is submitted that the claim as originally presented was novel over actual disclosure in Brumlik. Specifically Brumlik discloses in Fig. 6a and 6b:

1. a net and not discrete stands;
2. the cut film if oriented in the direction of the ridges in Brumlik would not create orient film between each discrete cut ridge portion. There may be no orientation if the film rather the film is just opened and if stretched further just the downweb oriented cut portions of the cut film would stretch;
3. Brumlik's process would not form two or more discrete strands;
4. Brumlik does not split their film after stretching, but before. With the invention this ensure uniform orientation of the film backing before it is split, a structural difference from the nonuniform structure inherent in Brumlik's film where a skip slit film is stretched after it is slit;

5. the hook members in Brumlik's Fig. 6a and 6b are formed by two adjacent cut lines in the cross direction. These cut lines go through the film base and also form the "strand elements". The same two adjacent cuts define the longitudinal direction of the strands and the direction that the hook head arm extends. The hook head arm extend parallel with the cut lines or at a 0° angle. The hook head arm also extends parallel with the longitudinal direction of the resulting strands. If the cut strand turns directions as a result of stretching, the attached hooks will follow as they are integral with one another and their parallel relationship will remain unchanged.

§ 103 Rejections

Claims 11-14 and 17-19 stands rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brumlik 4,001,366.

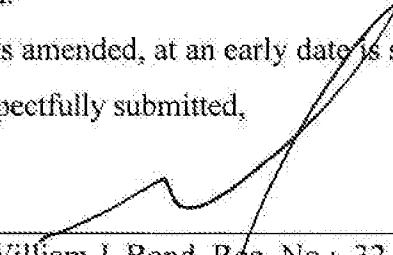
The rejection is traversed for the reasons stated above relative to the 102 rejection.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Allowance of claims 1-14 and 16-19, as amended, at an early date is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

By: 
William J. Bond, Reg. No.: 32,400
Telephone No.: 651-736-4790

Office of Intellectual Property Counsel
3M Innovative Properties Company
Facsimile No.: 651-736-3833